

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9356

INFO USDOC WASHDC

RECEPTION CENTER NEW YORK CITY

RECEPTION CENTER LOS ANGELES

UNCLAS RANGOON 0804

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA EFIN BM

SUBJ: VISIT OF BURMESE LIVESTOCK/FISHERY DELEGATION

1. GUB DELEGATION HEADED BY U CHIT MOUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE, WILL BE ARRIVING WASHINGTON APRIL 12 TO NEGOTIATE WORLD BANK LOANS FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS. DELEGATION INCLUDES U PYI SOE, FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, NOW HEADING LIVESTOCK PROJECT, AND U K. BA THAUNG, MANAGING DIRECTOR, PEOPLE'S PEARL AND FISHERY CORPORATION. WILL ADVISE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL WHEN KNOWN.

2. BA THAUNG HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY AND DEPT ASSISTANCE WITH TWO OTHER ASSIGNMENTS WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED FROM HIGHEST AUTHORITY. THESE ARE: (A) VISITS TO ONE OR TWO LEADING AQUARIUMS AND STUDY OF PRINCIPLES OF SEA-AQUARIUM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. GUB ENVISAGES CONSTRUCTION OF SEA-AQUARIUM, TO INCORPORATE PROTECTED ASPECTS OF EXISTING MARINE ENVIRONMENT, AT SOME COASTAL POINT, PROBABLY SANDOWAY, AND BA THAUNG HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF PROJECT. (B) PURCHASE OF DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER FOR USE IN PEARL DIVING OPERATIONS. FOR THESE PURPOSES BA THAUNG EXPECTS TO HAVE ABOUT A DAY AND A HALF FREE IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN APRIL 14 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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21, AND ALSO PLANS TO STOP OVER IN LOS ANGELES BETWEEN APPROXI-

MATELY APRIL 21 AND 24.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR BA THAUNG WITH APPROPRIATE NOAA OR OTHER USG OFFICES QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS FOREGOING TOPICS WITH HIM. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT DURING HIS LOS ANGELES STOPOVER HE TRY TO MAKE TIME FOR A VISIT TO SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY, WHICH MAY FIND HIM A USEFUL CONTACT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ITS RESEARCH INTERESTS IN ANDAMAN SEA.

4. DEPARTMENT AND USDOC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS IMMEDIATE INTERESTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE BA THAUNG WILL HAVE A KEY DECISION-MAKING ROLE IN PROCUREMENT, UNDER \$9.8 MILLION ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN, OF NEW FISHING VESSELS, MARINE DIESEL ENGINES, AND REFRIGERATION AND ICE-MAKING COMPLEX OVER NEXT TWO YEARS.

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